



Association  
of Canadian  
Archivists

# theBulletin

August - September 2012



Association  
of Canadian  
Archivists

Association of Canadian Archivists  
I.S.S.N. 0709-4604  
Vol 36. No 4, Aug./Sept. 2012

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The views expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors of the Association of Canadian Archivists. The Bulletin is usually published quarterly by the Association of Canadian Archivists.

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Submission deadlines for the Bulletins scheduled for late 2012:

Issue	Submission deadline
<i>Fall</i>	<i>October 12, 2012</i>
<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 7, 2012</i>

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## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the summer 2012 edition of the Association of Canadian Archivists' Bulletin.

Inside this issue you will find a summary of the ACA's 37th annual conference "In Search of Archival Gold", which took place in Whitehorse, Yukon this past June 7-9 along with some photographs, award recipient information, and a rundown of the annual baseball game. The conference proceedings, along with some of the presentations, are available on the ACA Members section of the website at [www.members-archivists.ca](http://www.members-archivists.ca).

This past spring has been fraught with a lot of upsets and change within our profession, specifically with the news coming out of Ottawa. Myron Groover's article provides a useful synopsis of the recent changes at Library and Archives Canada and what the implications will be for archives and information professionals across the country. It is a sobering & provocative read.

And, on a more upbeat note, Chris Sanagan tells us a bit about how the Archives of Ontario is using the diaries of Ely Playter, a local farmer and militia officer, to commemorate the War of 1812...using Twitter!

Thank you to all of the contributors for submitting such interesting & thought provoking articles. As always, if there is something new happening in your archives (or something old for that matter) we want to hear from you!

Happy reading & enjoy the rest of your summer.

Regards,  
Carrie Limkilde

*Correction: My apologies to Shelley Sweeney for the spacing errors in her "More on Merger" article in the June issue of the Bulletin.*

**Organizing data for eloquent presentation!**



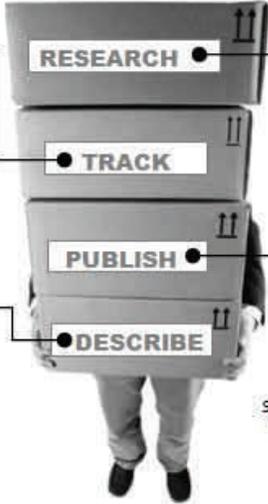
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### ACA Inducts Newest Fellow

The Association of Canadian Archivists is pleased to announce the induction of Nancy Marrelli as its newest Fellow.

Drawing upon the nomination submitted by Marion Beyea, Ian Forsyth provided a testimonial to the delegates at the ACA Awards Luncheon in Whitehorse, of which a selection appears below:

“As head of Concordia University Archives from 1983 until her retirement in 2010, Nancy developed an exemplary archival program by introducing a comprehensive preservation management program, initiated numerous outreach projects that attracted the attention and enlisted the support of university administrators, implemented a fully functioning records management program, and acquired extensive and important private archives documenting the Montreal jazz and visual arts communities.

Nancy may be best known to the Canadian archival community for her work in copyright, disaster recovery and planning, preservation management and the preservation of audio-visual records are also areas in which Nancy excels. She has shared her considerable expert knowledge and experience on these complex topics by serving on committees, reporting at meetings, writing articles, teaching workshops, presenting at conferences and public events, participating in interviews and exhibits, and appearing before federal government hearings.

Nancy also has been active in her home province of Quebec at the civic and provincial levels. She has helped to coordinate various archival activities as well as promote archives and their use, through organizations such as Le Groupe d'archiviste de la region de Montreal, St. Mary's Hospital Centre, the Montreal Council on Jewish Culture, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Association des archivistes du Quebec, and the Reseau des archives du Quebec.

Nancy's commitment has resulted in a measurable and lasting impact on our profession. Her contributions to our profession are many and substantial. She is a generous and supportive colleague and a friend to many in the archival world. She has given distinguished service to the Canadian archival community and beyond, and has demonstrated her continuing commitment to the Canadian archival system, most recently through her outspoken, spirited encouragement and support for Canada's archival network.”

For her exceptional career of dedicated service, extensive professional experience, past and continuing contributions and

leadership, the ACA is pleased to welcome Nancy as its latest fellow.

### SSHRC cuts Travel Grants:

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has cancelled its Aid & Attendance Grants to Scholarly Associations program. The ACA has benefited from this financial grant in the past with a total of over \$159,000 disbursed to assist 629 students, delegates, and speakers to attend annual conferences in St. John's, Halifax, Fredericton, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Whitehorse. The ACA Board is writing to SSHRC to express both our appreciation for this support and our regret at the elimination of this program.

### Canadian Archives System Taskforce (CAST):

The ACA announced the creation of a taskforce on the future of the Canadian Archival System at the AGM in Whitehorse. For more information on CAST and to see a draft Terms of Reference visit: <http://members.archivists.ca/content/all-members-group>

### Digital Preservation Management Workshop: *Short-Term Solutions for Long-Term Problems*

The Association of Canadian Archivists and the McGill University School of Information Studies are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the three-day Digital Preservation Management Workshop taking place September 26th - 28th, 2012.

Instructors: **Dr. Nancy McGovern** (*Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Director, DPM Workshops*) and **Kari Smith** (*Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Instructor, DPM Workshops*) with **Dr. Carolyn Hank** (*School of Information Studies, McGill University*)

Location: Thomson House, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, CANADA

Dates: September 26-28, 2012

To register and view more details, please visit:

<http://archivists.ca/content/workshops-institutes>

### Workshop Overview

This workshop is predicated on the need for institutions to combine organizational and technological perspectives to devise an appropriate response to the challenges that digital preservation (DP) requirements present. It is aimed at managers at institutions who are grappling with fundamental DP issues. We selected topics that build on what you learned in the tutorial and that are representative of the range of issues that need to be addressed as you develop your institution's response. For each topical session, we identified additional resources for you to pursue that may be relevant for your in-

stitution or your personal development.

The workshop schedule is built around three action plan sessions for policy, technology, and resource frameworks that we developed to assist you in designing and implementing an approach that will work for your institution. Each action plan references exemplars from real programs and potential building blocks for your frameworks.

For information about the Digital Preservation Management workshop series, please visit: [www.dpworkshop.org](http://www.dpworkshop.org)

### **ACA 2013: Community as Archives, Archives as Community Winnipeg, Manitoba 13-15 June 2013**

Communities are the framework of our identities, our history and our lives. Online and offline, connected by geography, ethnicity, language, sexuality, interests, professions, friendship and kin, our lives are a lattice of communities. Join us in Winnipeg, city of communities and meeting places, for an exploration of how archival consciousness arises in communities and how community consciousness has arisen among archivists. We invite proposals related to all areas of archival theory or practice and pertaining to any and all media. These contributions can come from anyone involved with archives: from archival staff and volunteers, from those who share an interest in archives, whether as a community organizer, researcher, creator, a professional or an academic, and from anyone who considers themselves to be a knowledge worker.

Topics might include: Archives as Community: What issues are important to the Canadian archival community right now? How can we act together to achieve our goals? Community Archives: What is a community archive? What is participatory archiving? How do we build collections and staff that are broadly representative of Canadian society? Archives and Indigenous Communities: How can archival practice engage with Indigenous knowledge traditions? How can archives build healthy relationships with Canadian Indigenous communities? Alternative Archives: Do certain communities treat archives in a particular way? How is the concept of “archives” reinterpreted (as a space, or as an idea)? Virtual Communities, Virtual Archives: What are the challenges and opportunities of social media as collaborative tools? How do we create archives for digital natives? How can archives participate in open source and standards communities?

**SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:** The 2013 Conference Program Committee invites contributions in a variety of traditional and non traditional formats including:

1. Traditional session: formal presentation of papers; approximately 20 minutes per speaker, with questions to follow as time allows.
2. Panel discussion: abbreviated presentation of papers; approximately 10-15 minutes per speaker, with discussion to follow.
3. Roundtable: brief 5-7 minute presentations with open discussion
4. Focused Debate on a specific topic: brief presentations with open discussion & debate to follow. Can adhere to formal debating rules or not.
5. Pecha Kucha Session: 8-12 presenters have 20 slides, each shown for 20 seconds on a timer. Thus, each presenter has just 6 minutes and 40 seconds to explain their ideas. Use the “Call for Submission” button on the ACA website at <http://www.archivists.ca/>. Submitting your session proposal in electronic form using this link is strongly encouraged. The deadline for these proposals is: Friday, September 29th, 2012. Note: Please be advised there will be a Call for Student Papers as well as a Call for Posters later this year, with submission deadlines early in 2013.

**WORKSHOP PROPOSALS:** For 2013, ACA will use the “Call for Submission” button for any workshop proposals that will be associated with the Annual Conference; these submissions will go to the Professional Learning Committee, which will make its decisions in mid October 2012. Workshop is defined as a full 1-day or 2-day event, generally combining presentations, group discussions and hands-on activities for a group of about 25 – 30 participants. Workshops can cover any topic/subject, and may not be related directly to the conference theme.

Please feel free to direct questions to:

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[archivists.ca/content/annual-conference](http://archivists.ca/content/annual-conference)



**Basil Frederick Stuart-Stubbs**  
1930-2012

Passed away at Marion Hospice in Vancouver on May 29th at the age of 82. Predeceased by his parents, Thomas Edward and Amy Jubilee, sister Eileen Cooke, and daughter Kathleen Amy. Lovingly remembered by his wife Brenda, daughter Megan, son-in-law Nick Murphy, grandson Alexander, first wife Nancy, sisters Patricia Prince (Bob) and Joan Symons, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

Basil spent his first sixteen years in Moncton, New Brunswick and moved with his parents to Vancouver in 1946. He attended UBC (B.A. Hon. Phil.) and McGill University (B.L.S.). After working at McGill University Library for a few years, he returned to UBC and worked in positions specializing in collections and rare books. In 1964, at the age of 34, he was appointed University Librarian. His seventeen years as University Librarian coincided with the computer revolution and the rapid growth of the library staff and collections dispersed over many new branch libraries on the expanding Point Grey campus. In 1981, he moved to a faculty position when he was appointed Professor and Director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, a position he held for two terms and from which he took early retirement in 1992.

Professor emeritus and University Librarian emeritus at UBC, Basil will be remembered as a bibliophile, scholar, and librarian. His writings encompass Canadian history, historical cartography, historical bibliography, library history, copyright law, library automation, union catalogues, resource sharing, and computerized networks. He served the federal and provincial governments in an advisory capacity on such bodies as the National Research Council's Advisory Board on Scientific and Technical Information, the National Library Advisory Board, the Canada Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the British Columbia Arts Board.

He had a leadership role in many national and regional library and publishing activities. During his exceptional career, Basil took particular interest in the production and distribution of Canadian books, and was associated with several initiatives beneficial to authors and their readers, and Canadian publishing. Significant accomplishments in-

cluded chairing the UBC Publications Centre which created UBC Press (Basil was Chair of the UBC Press Board for ten years and Acting Director for a year); collaborating with Bill Duthie & Harald Bohne to establish Canadian Books in Print; first President of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries; organizing the first conference on regional publishing in Western Canada which led to the establishment of the Association of B.C. Book Publishers; founding member and second President of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction; founding member of the Alcuin Society; founding Board member of the SFU Centre for Canadian Publishing; participating in the establishment of the scholarly journal *Canadian Literature* (he was the first Circulation Manager); and leading advocate for the establishment of the Public Lending Right for Canadian authors. A particular highlight was a journey through Europe in the mid-1960's to acquire precious manuscripts and books using funds from the \$3 million donation for UBC Library collections provided by industrialist H.R. MacMillan.

Basil received many awards and honours, including: the Order of Canada in 2005; Fellow, Royal Society of Canada in 1984; the Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Book Publishers of BC; the first Miles Blackwell Medal for Outstanding Academic Librarian by the Canadian Library Association; the Helen Gordon Stewart Award by the BC Library Association; Honorary Life Memberships from the BC Library Association and American Library Association; the Canada Medal in 1967; and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Music, in particular the piano and his collection of sheet music, recordings, and books by and about pianists, was Basil's lifelong passion. Attending concerts in Vancouver and while travelling were among his life's greatest pleasures.

He leaves as a legacy to his family his passion for genealogy, having spent decades, partly in the pre-Internet era, sleuthing his roots and discovering family lost in the previous generation.

## ACA 2012 Summary

By Dee Psaila and Christine Bourolias, Archives of Ontario



Territorial Archivist Ian Burnett tours ACA delegates through the Yukon Archives.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual ACA Conference was held in Whitehorse, Yukon from June 7-9, 2012. It was a fantastic event with representatives attending from across Canada and as far away as Mexico and New Zealand. It was certainly an adventure we will not forget!

The conference theme, “*In Search of Archival Gold*” was referenced throughout the sessions, keynote and plenary addresses. Yukon could not have been a better choice to hold the conference having experienced its own history of discovering new frontiers, challenges and opportunities. The various sessions centred on how well the archival profession has developed in an ever evolving environment where new and advanced issues pose challenges but where there are opportunities to advance our archival identity, the “gold within us” as Shelley Sweeney referred to it.

The conference was well organized. We would not expect anything less from Cathy Bailey and Lesley Buchan and their teams. The sessions were a good mix of theoretical discussions and practical insight. There was lots of opportunity to meet new delegates and catch up with old friends. There were a number of fantastic adventures outside of the sessions themselves, including the visit at the wildlife sanctuary, natural hot springs, an evening performance by local artists, a tour of the Yukon Archives and the ever popular dinner and dance to close the conference. We also sampled many culinary delights – from locally brewed ale and wines to fresh salmon and decadent sweets.

Each session examined a myriad of “archival gold”. *Mining for*

*Gold in the Archives: Use of Social Media to Uncover the Mother Lode* discussed the use of social media where users are more involved and how sites like Twitter and Facebook are used by archives. The room was filled and had several delegates sitting on the floor just to listen and be involved in the lively discussion as it certainly is a hot topic for several organizations. Other sessions that attracted large numbers of delegates included topics on developing partnerships in digital infrastructure while coping with the reality of financial restraints and the implementation of reappraisals with a look at the risks and accountability issues. Another presentation highlighted how important it is to collaborate. John Robarts from the Archives of New Zealand spoke of collaboration as the key, professionally and strategically, in achieving what at first might appear to be an impossible. He underlined that if we have any hope to continue an active relationship that collaboration must include



Christine Bourolias (L) and Dee Psaila (R) of the Archives of Ontario presenting on Archival Gold during the ACA Conference in Whitehorse.

respect for the various viewpoints. Normand Charbonneau echoed this also in his talk emphasizing the need for transparency, continuity and respect as partners in any discussion.

Of the talks presented by the Archives of Ontario, Christine Bourolias featured the J.C.B. and E.C. Horwood collection as a wealth of architectural drawings and Dee Psaila provided practical advice on processing a glass plate collection – the David L. Gibson fonds – including samples of containers to house glass plates. Both presentations featured rich collections that are worth a visit to Ontario to see in person or via the website:

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

It would be remiss to not mention the student session. Joy Rowe from UBC, Mary Horodyski from University of Manitoba and Wayne Pender from McGill University all had fresh perspectives that fascinated delegates on topics that addressed Spiritualist Archives, Television News collections, and the digitally created Occupy Vancouver records. They presented on issues that challenge the profession and archival theory, but also allow for opportunities to collaborate and develop and bring archivists to the next chapter in Archives.

## 2012 ACA Conference in Photos

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## Baseball

In keeping with the one of the ACA's most hallowed conference traditions, the ACA East-West baseball game took place on June 8. This year's host field was the Takhini Baseball Complex, which featured stunning views of the mountains surrounding Whitehorse, an unusual amount of daylight for those used to more southern locations, and, best of all, a concession stand featuring all the usual baseball field amenities!

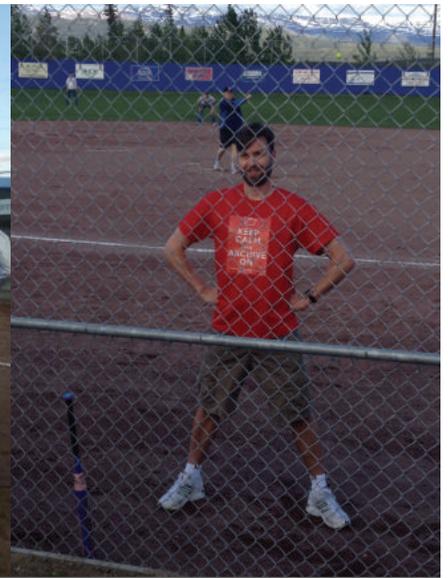
As for the game itself, the West took an early lead, but the East rallied valiantly as the game progressed. Ultimately, however, the West prevailed, taking the Doughty Cup for another year. The final score was West 14 and East 11. For details of past ACA East-West games, visit the annual conference section of the ACA website.



View of the Takhini Baseball Complex from the bleachers.



The victorious West holding up the Doughty Cup.



Promoting archives as always, Peter van Garderen strikes a pose for the West.

## 2012 Archivaria Awards Announced

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By Jean Dryden, General Editor, *Archivaria*

The 2012 winners of the W. Kaye Lamb Prize and Hugh A. Taylor Prize prizes for articles published in *Archivaria* were announced at the awards luncheon by *Archivaria* General Editor Jean Dryden. The winners and the official citations are as follows:

### W. Kaye Lamb Prize:

The Lamb Prize is awarded annually to the author of the *Archivaria* article that, by its exceptional combination of research, writing, and reflection advances archival thinking in Canada.

Laura Carroll, Erika Farr, Peter Hornsby, and Ben Ranker have been awarded the W. Kaye Lamb Prize for 2011 for their article "A Comprehensive Approach to Born-Digital Archives," *Archivaria* 72 (Fall 2011)

The citation reads: This case study documents the archival processing of a large and significant collection of born-digital records. It is an excellent example of theory applied to the challenges of digital preservation. Of particular note are the use of emulation as a digital preservation strategy,

the importance of a multidisciplinary team, the need to balance the interests of diverse stakeholders, and the overall holistic approach.

### Hugh A. Taylor Prize:

The Taylor Prize is awarded annually to the author of the *Archivaria* article that presents new ideas or refreshing syntheses in the most imaginative way, especially by exploring the implications of concepts or trends from other disciplines for archival thinking and activity, and by extending the boundaries of archival theory in new directions.

Paul Conway and Ricardo Punzalan have been awarded the Hugh A. Taylor Prize for 2011 for their article "Fields of Vision: Toward a New Theory of Visual Literacy for Digitized Archival Photographs," *Archivaria* 71 (Spring 2011) The citation reads: The authors' innovative "fields of vision" theory complements theoretical discussions of the effects of digitization by adopting a user-centred perspective. The article offers significant insights into the various ways in which users attach value to, and construct meaning from, original and digitized images.

## Archives News:

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### Archives as War Booty Database: Identifying Records Seized in Wars

The Society of American Archivists Issues and Advocacy Roundtable is interested in going forward with – and seeking participation in a project to identify repositories around the world that hold records relating to war – and could be considered 'war booty'. We'd like to create a comprehensive database of all repositories that contain these types of archival materials, including specific identification of the materials. Such a database will be useful on several levels: it will allow researchers to more quickly locate relevant materials that may be far distant from their country of origin. It will allow citizens victimized by the removal of their documentary heritage to find where their history has gone. It will allow people to track the dispersal of such materials and reconstruct the story of their forced removal.

Please contact the following I&AR leaders if you are interested in participating in this important work:

Alison Stankrauff: [astankra@iusb.edu](mailto:astankra@iusb.edu)

Laura Starratt: [lstarratt@gmail.com](mailto:lstarratt@gmail.com)

Jeremy Brett: [archiv\\_boy@yahoo.com](mailto:archiv_boy@yahoo.com)

["The Struggle for the Files: The Western Allies and the Return of German Archives after the Second World War"](#) by Astrid M. Eckert, a history professor at Emory, is now available from Cambridge University Press (as well as [Amazon](#)). This is the definitive work on the return of the German archives seized by the Allies during WWII. ISBN 978-0521880183

When American and British troops swept through the German Reich in the spring of 1945, they confiscated a broad range of government papers and archives. These records were subsequently used in war crimes trials and published under Allied auspices to document the German road to war. In 1949, the West Germans asked for their return, considering the request one of the benchmarks of their new state sovereignty. This book traces the tangled history of the captured German records and the extended negotiations for their return into German custody. Based on meticulous research in British, American, and German archives, *The Struggle for the Files* highlights an overlooked aspect of early West German diplomacy and international relations. All participants were aware that the files constituted historical material essential to write German history and at stake was nothing less than the power to interpret the recent German past.

*Archives of Ontario has Many Hands*

*Many Hands: Dramatizing the Archives of Ontario* will transform the west side of the York Research Tower/Archives of Ontario building into the site of a large-scale projection for images from The Archives of Ontario. To spectators, it will appear as if a porthole has been opened into the archives, giving them a view of a number of archival processes: record intake, photo processing, document preservation, film conversion, digitization, and scanning. The hands of Archives of Ontario staff involved in these processes will be depicted in the montage. *Many Hands* will run as a 3-5 minute loop, presented for a number of evenings in mid-September or early-October as a partnership between the Archives of Ontario, York’s Future Cinema Lab, and the Sensorium Institute for Digital Art and Technology. For more information David Tyler at email: [david.tyler@ontario.ca](mailto:david.tyler@ontario.ca) or 416-212-2037.



AO Archivist Chris Sanagan tries his hand as a model featured in the Many Hands project.



Shelley Sweeney checks out the hip menswear store “the archive” in San Francisco. Perhaps a lesson on “respect des fonds” is in order... and where are all the cardigans?]

# "Crisis at LAC -- an Overview

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By Myron Groover

Myron Groover is an archivist at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Outside the Centre, he is a commentator and consultant on heritage and information policy issues across the spectrum. He is particularly interested in issues relating to the construction and legitimization of historical and political narratives. He holds an MA (Hons) in History from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and both a Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library and Information Studies from UBC.

## Introduction

The ongoing cuts and changes to service delivery at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) continue to be a source of consternation for Canada's archival community and to the users of Canada's documentary heritage. Here's a brief summary of the available information and analysis regarding LAC's changing mandate, the proposed changes themselves, and the ongoing controversy surrounding these developments<sup>1</sup>.

## A Changing Mandate: Theory And Practise

LAC's statutory mandate under the Library and Archives Canada act holds that:

"The objects of the Library and Archives of Canada are (a) to acquire and preserve the documentary heritage; (b) to make that heritage known to Canadians and to anyone with an interest in Canada and to facilitate access to it; (c) to be the permanent repository of publications of the Government of Canada and of government and ministerial records that are of historical or archival value; (d) to facilitate the management of information by government institutions; (e) to coordinate the library services of government institutions; and (f) to support the development of the library and archival communities.

What we are seeing at LAC is a concerted attempt on the part of the institution's current management to re-interpret this mandate in the context of the current Canadian political environment. To that end, there is a markedly decreased focus on some aspects, notably (a), (b) and most particularly (f) above.

To get an idea of how this re-interpretation is being carried out at ground level, let's look at the broader organisational changes which affect the whole institution (much of this information is courtesy of [Save LAC](#)):

- The Librarian and Archivist of Canada was replaced by Daniel J. Caron, a political appointee who is neither an archivist nor a librarian (his [background](#) is in "applied human sciences") and who prefers instead to refer to himself as "Deputy Head" of LAC.
- Hours and services for reference are being cut to 6 hours a day (weekdays only); reference services will no longer be available without a formal appointment
- 450 staff have been presented with "affected" notices announcing they will effectively need to re-apply for their own positions; of these, 215 will be eliminated. This amounts to around 1/5 of LAC's total workforce.

These cuts include:

- 21 of 61 archivists dealing with non-governmental records will be eliminated
- 50% of digitization staff will be eliminated
- 50% of circulation staff for analog holdings will be eliminated
- 30% of cataloguing librarians will be eliminated
- 30% of library technicians working in collection development will be eliminated
- The professionals previously responsible for Loans and Exhibitions, Microfilm Preservation and Imaging, Digital Preservation, Preservation Registry, Textual and Visual Conservation, Multicultural Publications, and Rare/Out-of-Print Publications will be fired: the archivist positions responsible for Cartography, Moving Images and Sound, Aboriginal Treaties and Affairs, Art and Photo Archives, and the Multicultural portfolio are already vacant
- Staff dealing with preservation and conservation of documents will see "significant" reduction
- All interlibrary loans will be eliminated completely by 15 February 2013. As of writing this, no plans for dealing with this unprecedented reduction in service have been proposed. This would tend to indicate that LAC's

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Note – this information is as current as possible, but LAC's extreme reluctance to release any figures on what it plans mean that some particulars may change as time goes on.

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services as library of record will only be available on-site in Ottawa.

- A new “whole of society model” will be used to guide and partly automate accessions. This is one of the more controversial (but less publicized) changes; this is supposed to be an objective framework which accurately maps the whole shape of society and the entire human experience of the people living in it. There are serious questions to be asked about the ethical implications of such a model, which to some seems uncomfortably redolent of 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup> century social engineering. The fact that it is being developed entirely in secret and that LAC is so reluctant to share any information on it only heightens these concerns. References to the model can be found scattered among cached versions of old presentations and speeches by Daniel Caron over the last few years, but not on any other part of LAC’s website.
  - An official 10-month moratorium on purchased accessions announced in March 2009 has extended, unofficially, into a 3-year lapse on accessions.
  - Online archival descriptions at fonds level will be reduced from 25 information fields to 10, further impeding access to these materials.
  - The National Archival Development Program, which serves to support the archival enterprise across Canada, has been eliminated in spite of widespread public approbation, considerable hostile media attention, and an unprecedented outcry from Canadian information and heritage professionals across the spectrum.
  - Virtually all funding has been withdrawn from the Canadian Council on Archives, the national body which is responsible for Canada’s standards on arrangement and description (RAD) and for administering the NADP

The latter two items are worth examining a little more closely, since the impact of the NADP cut will be most keenly and immediately felt by archivists and the people who use the records we care for (information courtesy of the CCA’s [memorandum](#) on the subject). The elimination of the NADP and the de-funding of the CCA have resulted in the following:

- A number of provincial and territorial archives councils may have to face dramatically scaling back their activities or even collapsing outright without additional financial support

- 90 fully approved LAC-supported archival projects for the 2012-2013 year have been retroactively cancelled
- 17 archival professionals have lost their jobs:
  - 6 staff at the CCA Secretariat
  - 11 Archives Advisors and Conservators. These had previously been stationed in every province to provide cooperative extension services in support of small institutions around the country; without them many institutions now have access to no professional expertise
- The ongoing participation of Canada in the National Archival Appraisal Board, the North American Archival Network, and the International Council on Archives is in question
- The imminent launch of ArchivesCanada.ca 2.0, a revolutionary national-level hub for all archival descriptions in Canada, has been seriously impeded

### Rationale And Controversy

I will take only a few moments to discuss the rationale behind these decisions, as the specifics of that rationale tend to change from day to day depending on who the management of LAC is talking to. Generally speaking, there has been no admission on behalf of LAC that these organisational changes will be detrimental to Canada’s ability to preserve and disseminate its cultural heritage; any challenges will be addressed by private industry and by a renewed focus on ‘digitization’ and ‘decentralization’. For more in this vein, see LAC’s [“report on plans and priorities”](#) for 2012-2013, which seems to contain some counter-intuitive assertions about staffing levels in fact remaining *stable* in the coming years. A partial analysis of these misleading claims can be found on John Reid’s [blog](#).

No one, especially at LAC, seems quite certain how this emphasis on digitisation is to be paid for or made possible, since (a) digitization is one of the most expensive streams of archival activity, (b) LAC plans to eliminate half its staff working in digitization, and (c) Canada has had a private-sector consultant on the payroll since 2008 to develop a TDR; progress on this project has yet to see the light of day. Recalling that NARA in the United States seems to have spent around [\\$1.5b on a TDR](#) raises all sorts of questions about just how is planning to pay for such an undertaking.

LAC has, however, proposed a [Pan Canadian Documentary Heritage Forum](#) which is supposed to facilitate dialogue and resource-sharing about decentralizing the responsibility for

Canada's documentary heritage. The forum is not without controversy by any means; many participants have openly questioned its value, pointing out that such a dialogue has in fact been ongoing for decades and that infrastructure already exists to support it.

Several key organisations, including the ACA and CPTA, have withdrawn from the Forum outright among allegations that participants were being asked to act as a rubber stamp on decisions made without consultation by LAC management. It is difficult to see how the Forum can maintain credibility without the support of Canada's archivists.

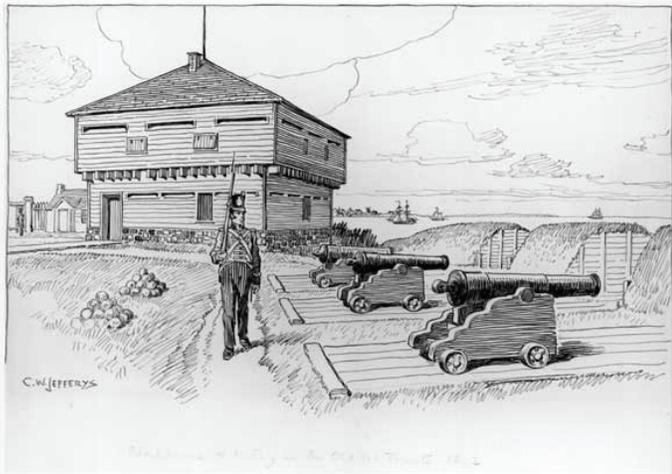
LAC continues to publicly assure professionals and politicians alike that everything is in hand and that asking for detailed cost analyses or projections regarding LAC's future service provision is unreasonable or even politically inappropriate. The total lack of transparency around these changes has been borne out at the highest levels of government – a recent legal opinion requested by the Parliamentary Budget Office found Daniel Caron, among others, to be in violation of the Parliament of Canada Act over his failure to comply with government requests for information about the cuts.

The reaction to these developments from the academy and from the professional communities of librarians and archivists has been generally negative – Canadian archivists even went so far as to organize an “Archivist's Trek” to Ottawa where a mock funeral for the National Archival Development Program was held on the steps of LAC. The cutting of the NADP, at least, has proved to be politically uncontroversial, drawing universal – and international – criticism from the academy and from professional organisations.

Opinion regarding the cuts within the library and heritage community is by no means stable, however. The NADP cut is only one part of a much larger change in LAC's ideology and vision for service delivery, and this broader shift has drawn a mixed reaction from Canada's professional organisations in heritage and related fields. Although the CLA opposed the NADP cut they have subsequently decided that further political opposition to these cuts is unwise, [stating](#) that “enhanced engagement with LAC management and with relevant federal Ministers and Members of Parliament is the best way for CLA to influence the impact of the budget reductions”. The ACA, meanwhile, finds LAC to be in legal contravention of its own statutory mandate and advocates ongoing political and professional opposition to the cuts. The debate continues.

# When Toronto Was Under Attack

By Chris Sanagan, Archivist, Archives of Ontario



Blockhouse and Battery in the Old Fort, Toronto, 1812/Jefferys, Charles William (C.W.), work on paper, [ca. 1921], Government of Ontario Art Collection, Accession 621228

To commemorate the War of 1812 bicentennial, the Archives of Ontario produced a series of posts for Spacing Magazine's Toronto blog. This article appeared in June.

It's difficult to imagine Toronto being attacked, plundered and occupied by an invading army. But on the morning of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1813, American forces landed just west of the Town of York (as Toronto was then known) and opened fire.

Outnumbered and outgunned, York's defenders, including an assortment of British soldiers, local militia, and First Nations allies, lost control of Fort York and then the town. Facing annihilation, the British retreated east to Kingston, setting fire to the wooden bridge over the Don River to thwart pursuit. The battle was over and a significant American victory had been won.

The Battle of York was a major engagement of the War of 1812. As the capital of Upper Canada, York was a natural military and political objective of the United States. York itself was physically decimated. Its fortifications had been destroyed during the attack and its parliament buildings, which were Ontario's first and stood near the corner of modern-day Front and Parliament Streets, were burned by invading American troops. Homes were also looted for valuables and provisions, and much of York was set ablaze.

Eyewitness to these events was local farmer and militia officer, Ely Playter, who recorded them in his diary. Surviving in the Archives of Ontario's collection, the Playter diary reveals the extent of the damage experienced by York and its inhabitants:

*"The appearance of the Town & garrison were dismal. The latter shattered and rent by the balls & the explosion of the magazine. Not a building but show some marks of it & some all torn to pieces. The Town thronged with the Yankees, many busy getting off the public stores. The Council office with every window broke & pillaged of every thing that it contained. The Government building, the Block House and the building adjacent all burned to ashes."*

Playter would maintain a diary for the balance of the war and his entries show the actions and motivations of an ordinary man living under extraordinary circumstances. He vividly describes the explosion of Fort York's ammunition dump, which managed to cause heavy American casualties:

*"As I returned out at the Gate, the Magazine blew up & for a few minutes I was in a horrid situation, the stone falling thick as hail & large one's sinking into the very earth. See Captain Loring a little distance from me fall with his horse. Mr. Sanders also with one leg mashed by a stone. Captain Loring escaped but his horse was killed."*

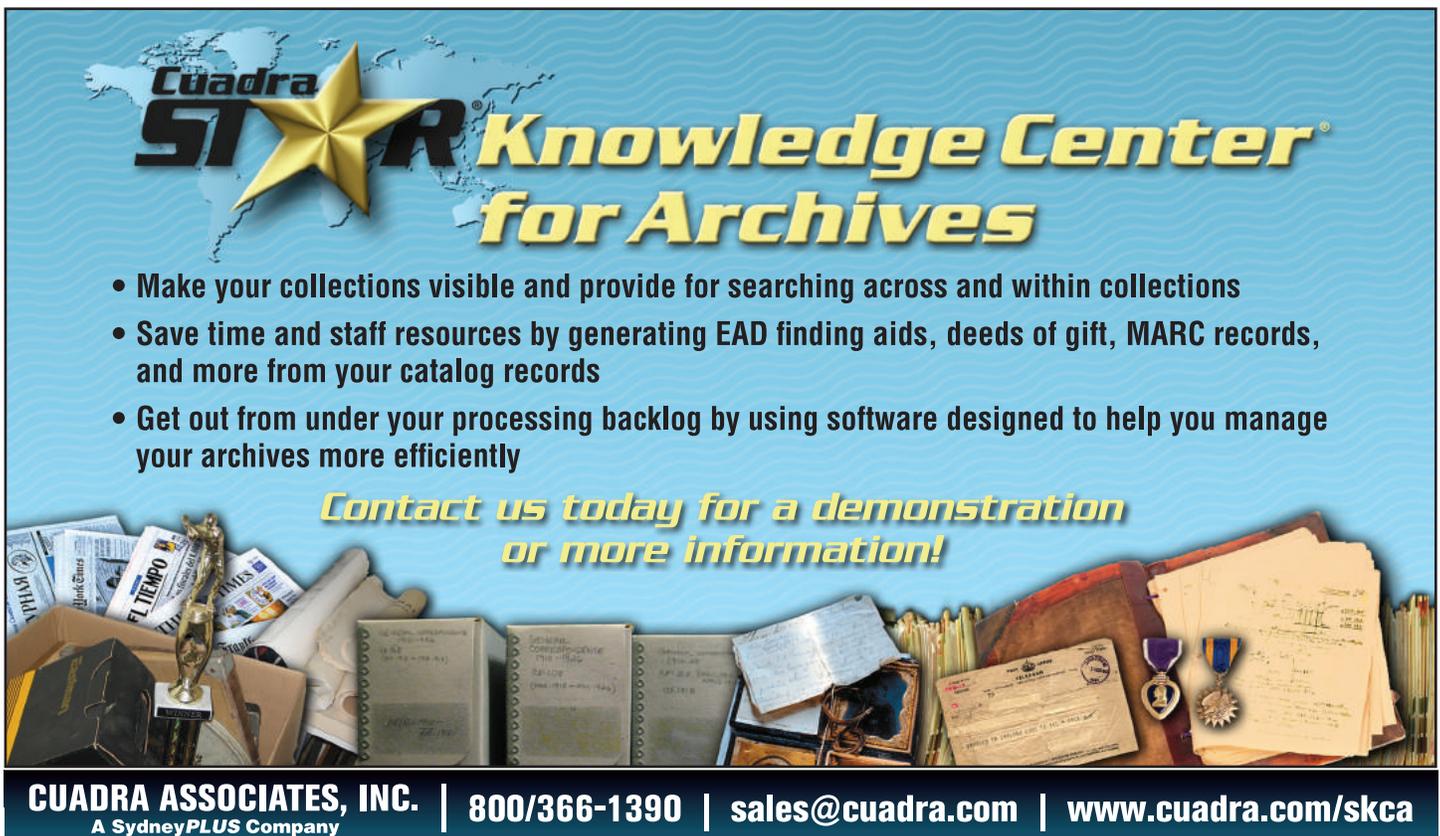
American forces would eventually depart and York went about the business of rebuilding. Save for a second, smaller invasion in July 1813 that resulted in a raid on the largely unoccupied fort and the obligatory burning of its barracks and storehouses, York saw no more action in the war. But the legacy of the burning and looting of York would prove to have ramifications beyond Upper Canada's borders. As York's political counterpart in the United States, it's believed that in 1814 the British army burned and looted Washington in retaliation for American actions during the Battle of York.

To learn more about the War of 1812 and our related collections, visit our website at [ontario.ca/archives](http://ontario.ca/archives). And for more of Ely Playter's reflections on the war, follow him on Twitter where we're posting entries from his diary: @ElyPlayter1812.

## ACA has moved!

As you may be aware, ACA and the Canadian Historical Association (CHA) have been subletting offices from the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA). However, due to financial restraints resulting from the cancellation of the National Archival Development Program, the CCA and its tenants were forced to relocate offices. An investigation of alternative offices determined that a suitable space to accommodate all three associations - the CCA, CHA and ACA - would not be possible without undertaking significant renovations at considerable expense. As a result, some smaller office spaces were considered. The CCA and CHA found a suitable office space to share while the ACA identified an appropriate space close to its current location.

By the time, you receive this Bulletin, the offices will have moved to our new location at 75 Albert Street, Suite 911 in downtown Ottawa, K1P 5E7. Our mailing address remains the same: P.O. Box 2596, Ottawa, ON K1P 5W6, as do our telephone and fax numbers.



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